

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that a "listing/discussion of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement." An Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449 and copies of references were filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 16, 2005 (copy attached together with stamped post card).

The drawings are objected to as stated in the Office Action for multiple reasons. Therefore, attached are Annotated and Replacements Sheets of Figures 1, 2, 4A, 4B, 6B and 6C, 7B, 8A, 8B and 12A as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The disclosure is objected to because of the noted informalities. The specification has been amended and therefore, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 6 has been amended to delete the phrase "like a diamond" and accordingly this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douglas (USPN 6,599,428; hereinafter '428) and in view of Douglas (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0063089; hereinafter '089). In response, claim 1 has been amended and is believed to be patentable over this combination of references for the reasons discussed below.

Douglas '089 discloses a filtration device employing far-infrared media. The first function of the far-infrared media 12 is discussed in Paragraph [0011] of Douglas '089:

"... the far-infrared media 12 electrolyzes the supplied water to create redox potential to generate a purified and bactericidal product. Further, it is believed that the far-infrared media 12 removes radon from the supplied water, further purifying the water."

The second function of the far-infrared media 12 is discussed in Paragraph [0020] of Douglas '089:

"... the water becomes activated in a positive manner, probably by enhancing the redox potential." This means that the far-infrared media acts on water to enhance the water's

redox potential.”

In addition, Paragraph [0020] of Douglas ‘089 discloses:

“The contaminants are removed from the water by bonding the contaminants to the far-infrared media 12.”

Paragraph [0020] continues:

“Also, organisms are removed from the water by reacting the organisms in an oxidation/reduction reaction with the far-infrared media 12.”

From the above, it can be understood that the invention of Douglas ‘089 removes organisms, bacteria, and viruses by bonding them to the far-infrared media. According to Douglas ‘089, the far-infrared media comprises at least about 20% of silica, about 15% of aluminum, about 10% of potassium, and about 5% of iron. Paragraph [0010]:

Douglas ‘428 discloses a filter device for removing contaminants from water (col. 5, lines 56-62):

“The KDF filter media is a copper-zinc reduction/oxidation media that has been shown by testing to reduce chlorine, as well as other contaminants in tap water. KDF filter media remove or reduce chlorine and contaminants from water because of the electrical and catalytic potential of the reduction-oxidation (redox) reaction.”

In other words, Douglas ‘428 discloses that the reduction/oxidation media, are made of copper and zinc, remove chlorine.

In the present invention, an activated-water generating part, which is filled with a large number of ceramic materials, is formed in an attachment member for a showerhead. The ceramic materials reduce the size of the clusters of water molecules so as to activate tap water. When the activated tap water is emitted from the showerhead, a large quantity of negative ions are emitted at the same time. As a result, hot/cold water from the showerhead exerts a negative-ion generating effect, a surface-active effect, and an antibacterial effect, which are advantageous in maintaining good health. The ceramic materials are suitably selected from inorganic materials (such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Fe₂O₃, TiO₂, CaO, K₂O, Na₂O, MgO, and MnO₂), that are sintered and formed so as to have spherical shapes.

The present invention will now be compared with Douglas ‘089 and Douglas ‘428 in regard to their respective means for activating water. In Douglas ‘089 and ‘428, the far-infrared media acts on water to enhance the reactivity (reduction/oxidation reaction) of the water. In

contrast, in the present invention the ceramic materials reduce the size of the clusters of water molecules so as to activate the water. And because this invention does not enhance the redox potential, this invention differs from the cited references in regard to the means for enhancing the reactivity of water (water-activating means).

The water-activating means of this invention is accomplished by ceramic materials that are composed of such materials as TiO_2 , CaO , Na_2O , MgO , and MnO_2 , which are not described in the applied references. In fact, water that has been activated by the ceramic materials of the current invention not only generates a large amount of negative ions in the air when emitted from the showerhead, but also has a surface-active effect. As a result, the activated water of this invention is advantageous for maintaining good health. The above-mentioned effects of the current invention differs from the effects of the far-infrared media that bond to contaminants and remove radon or chlorine. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the applied combination of references. Claims 3, 5 and 6 recite additional important limitations and should be allowable over the applied combination of references along with claim 1. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 4A, 4B, 6B and 6C, 7B, 8A, 8B and 12A.

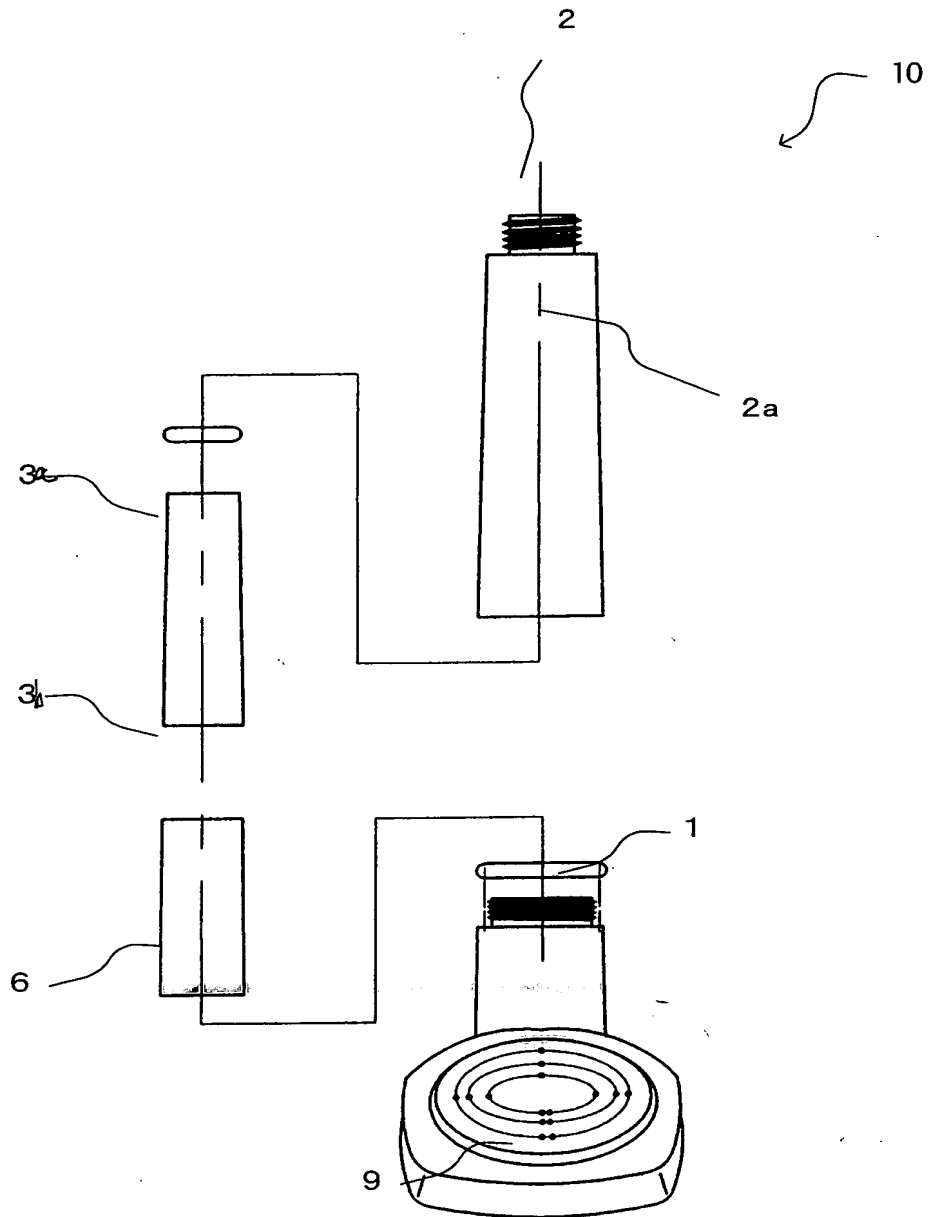
WATER-ACTIVATING SHOWER APPARATUS

Application No. 10/663,734

Inventor: Toukichi ICHIGE

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig.1



WATER-ACTIVATING SHOWER APPARATUS

Application No. 10/663,734

Inventor: Toukichi ICHIGE

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig.2A

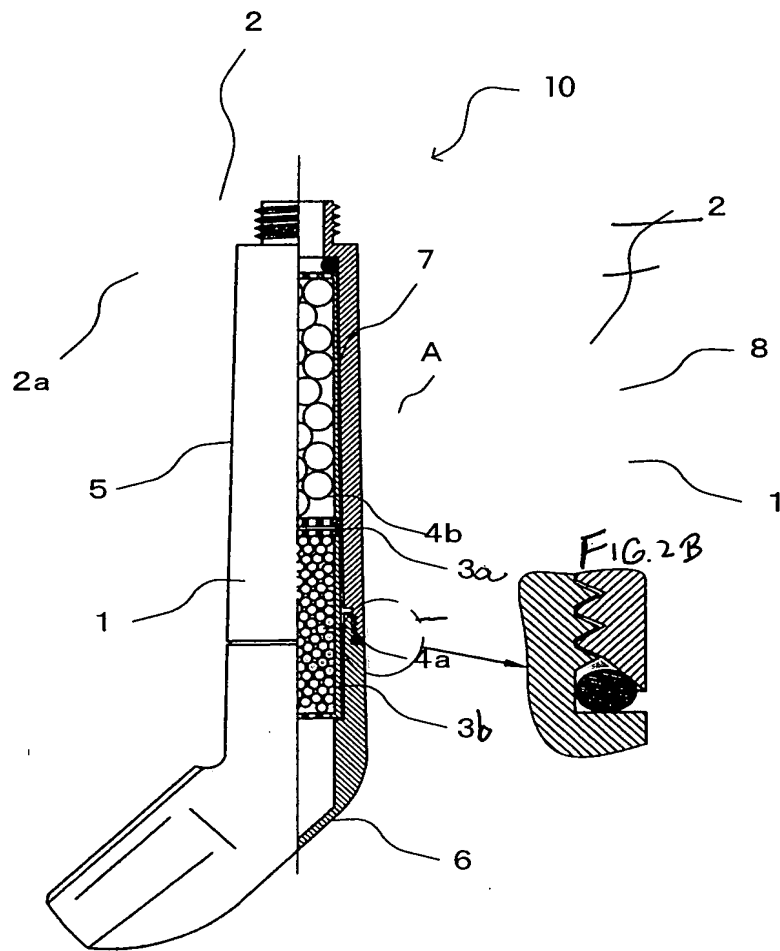


FIG. 2B

Fig.4A

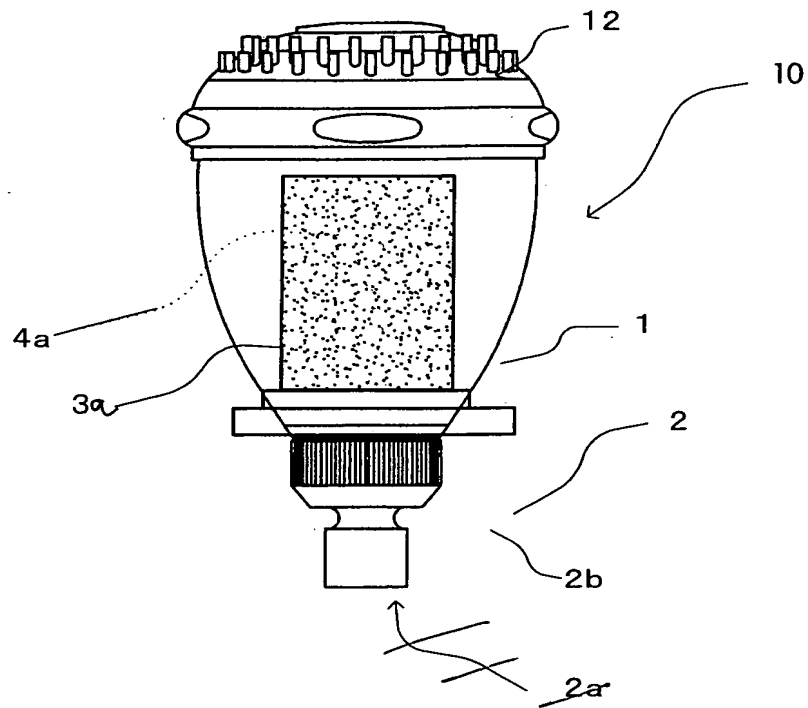
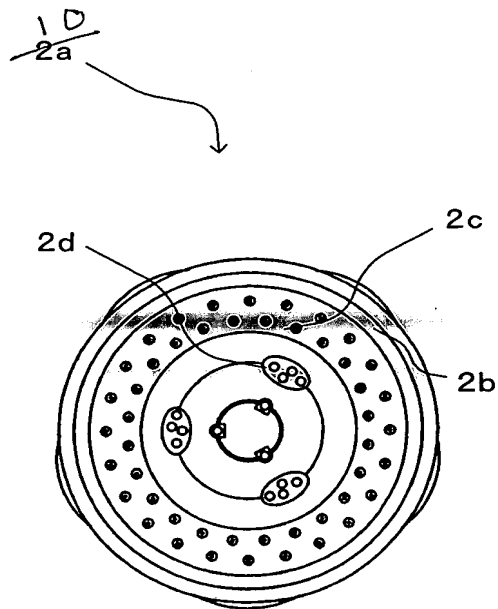


Fig.4B



WATER-ACTIVATING SHOWER APPARATUS

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Inventor: Toukichi ICHIGE

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig.6A

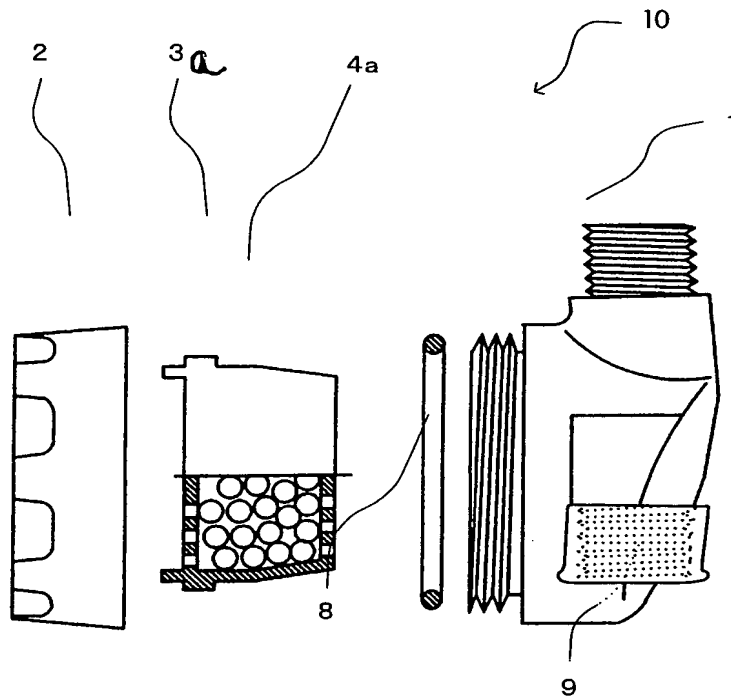


Fig.6B

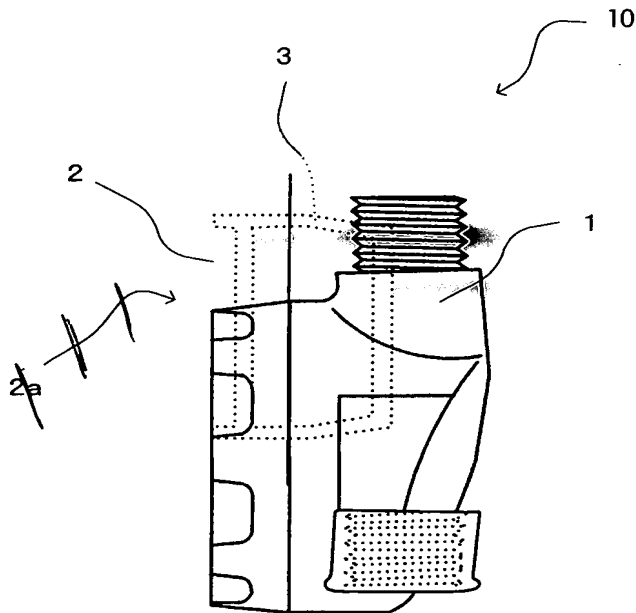
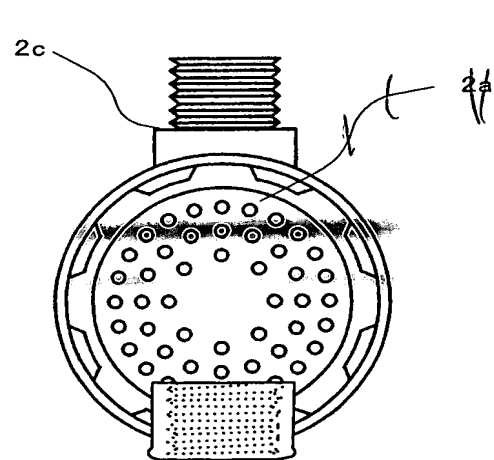


Fig.6C



WATER-ACTIVATING SHOWER APPARATUS

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Inventor: Toukichi ICHIGE

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig.7A

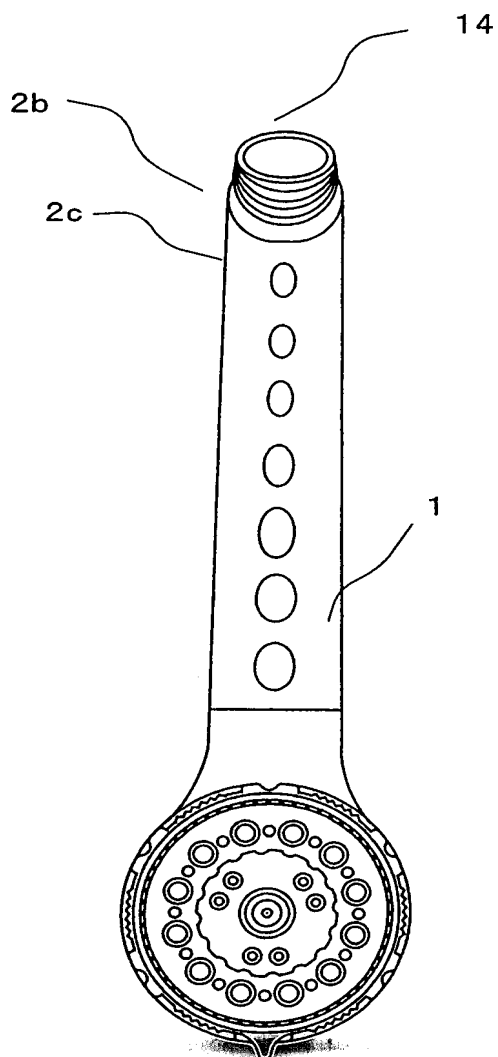
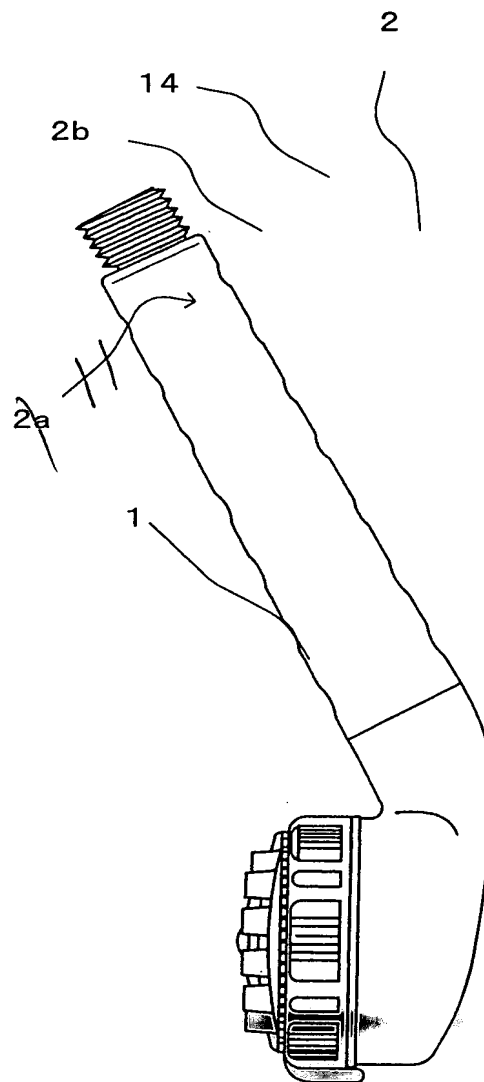


Fig.7B



WATER-ACTIVATING SHOWER APPARATUS

Application No. 10/663,734

Inventor: Toukichi ICHIGE

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig.8A

Fig.8B

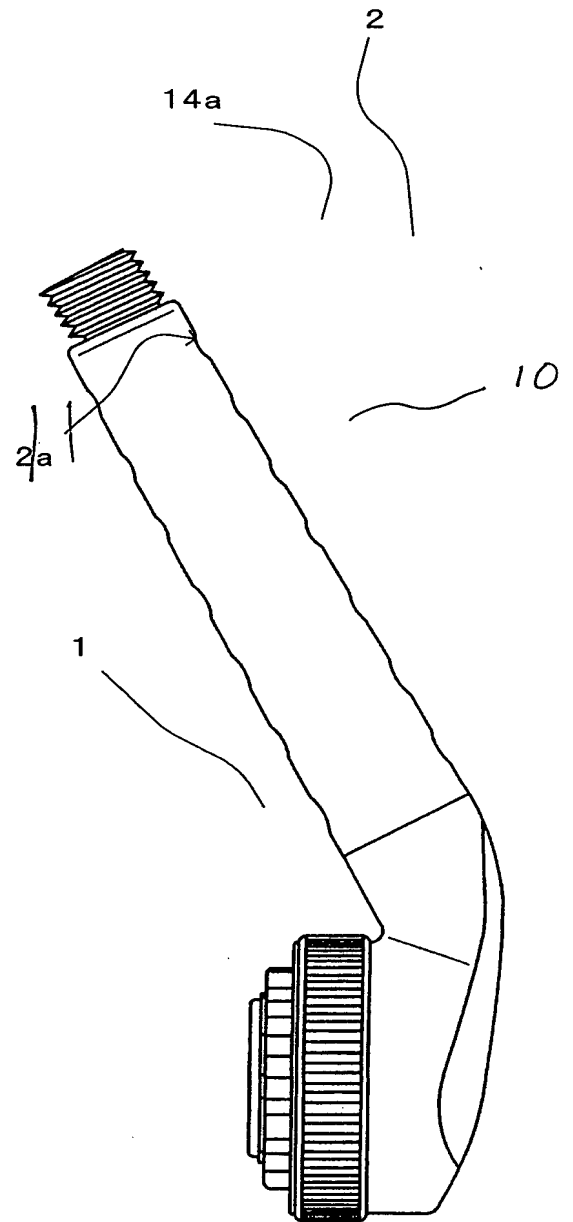
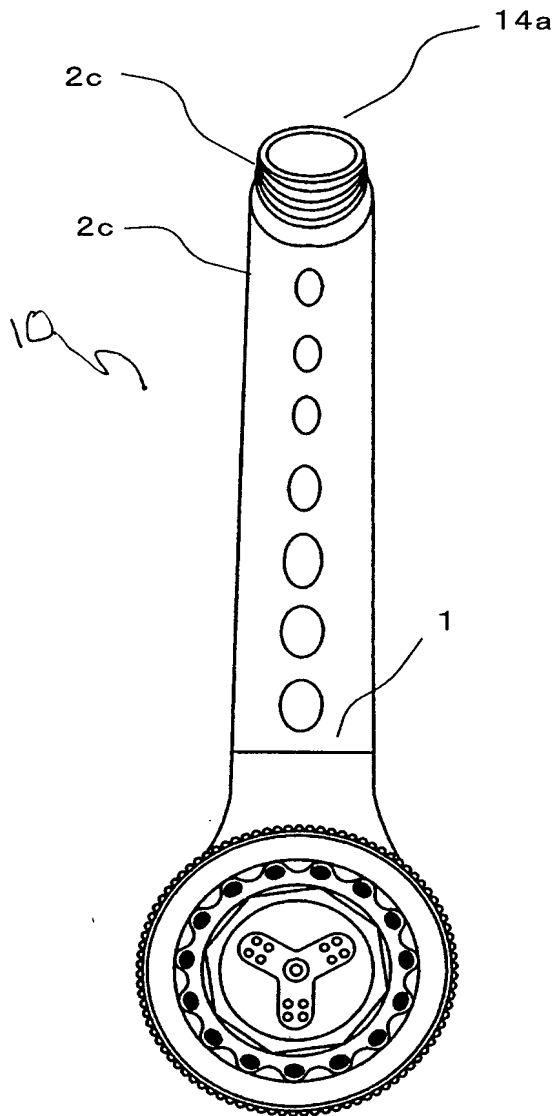


Fig.12A

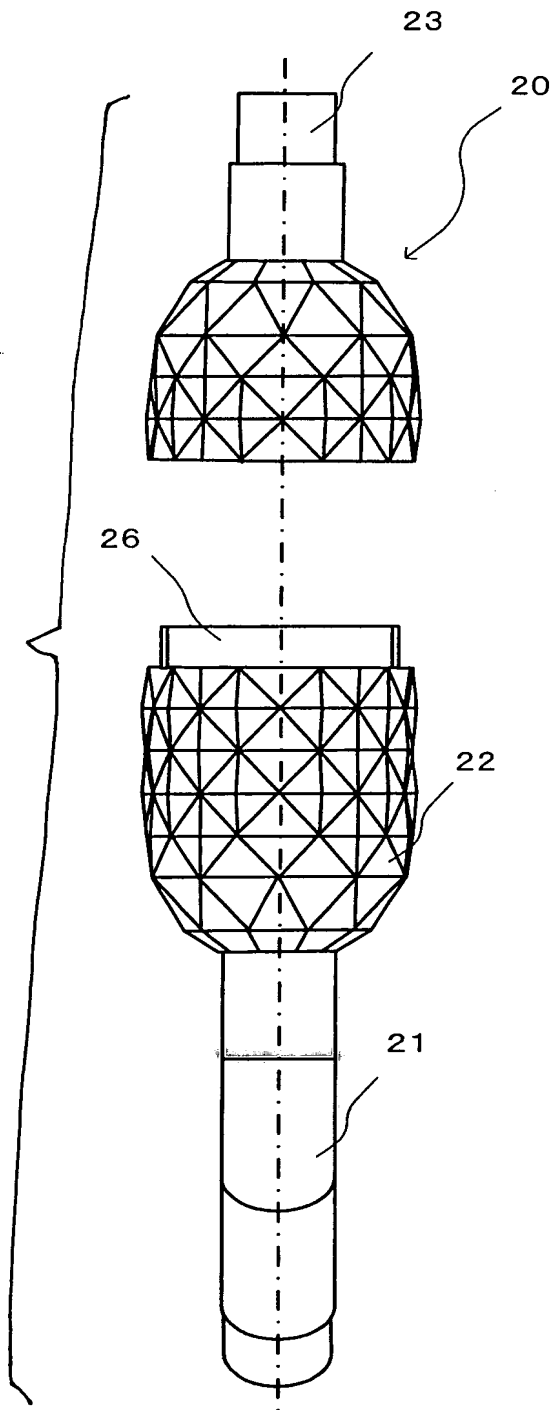


Fig.12B

